

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939.

As desired by the Minister of Health, it has been curtailed as much as possible, and has been confined, apart from statistics, to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year.

The reception of a large number of children and mothers from London and Croydon at the end of August might have been expected to increase the incidence of infectious disease, but this, fortunately was not found to be the case. On the contrary, the incidence of infectious diseases during the latter months of the year was remarkable low.

Dr. E. Margaret Douglas was appointed Assistant Medical Officer of Health temporarily with effect from 1st December, 1939, chiefly in order to assist in the many problems which arose owing to the presence of a large number of evacuated children in the District.

Mr. M. F. Warman and Mr. L. E. Scott were called up for military service early in September, and Mr. J. Moore, was appointed temporary Assistant Sanitary Inspector on December 4th.

The services of Mr. H. Clucas were lent on 5th September to the Health Department from the Valuation Office, and he has proved extremely useful.

Mr. Chapman has never spared himself, and in spite of pressure of work, has prevented any deterioration in essential health services.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. P. Lillitt

Medical Officer of Health.

<u>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>
Area in Acres.....	94,629	94,629
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1939.....	34,165	34,165
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939.	10,378	10,425
Rateable Value.....	£248,427	£259,072
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£941	£995

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
(a) Legitimate	418	213	205
(b) Illegitimate	15	5	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 Resident Population	10.3
England and Wales	15.0

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
(a) Legitimate	12	5	7
(b) Illegitimate	3	2	1

Rate per total births (live and still)	~~34.6~~ 3.34
England and Wales	.59

Total Deaths. 405

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population:

Crude, 12.2; Adjusted, 10.0

England and Wales.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>total births</u> <u>(live and still)</u>
Deaths from puerperal causes:		
Puerperal sepsis	1	2.6
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	1	2.6
Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births.....		~~37.0~~ 34.6
Death rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births.....		~~28.7~~ 28.9
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births		200.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	
Deaths from Whoopingcough (all ages)	1	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	
Zymotic Death Rate		0.06

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

For the first eight months of the year, the work of inspection proceeded normally, and much was accomplished, in spite of difficulties in getting work done.

For the most part, routine inspections were not so frequent or numerous, and activities were confined to housing and food inspections necessary to maintain health. These were intensified between the outbreak of War and the end of the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Action has been taken in regard to the sanitary accommodation, water supplies and registration of premises and other duties for which the District Council are responsible, although considerable curtailment in activities in this direction was essential.

SCHOOLS.

The following Schools were closed during the year for the periods and causes stated.

<u>School.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Hailsham Infants	6th March - 24th March	Measles
Warbleton	15th Feb. - 21st Feb.	Influenza.

HOUSING.

In certain cases worsened conditions in houses in rural parts were due to causes consequent upon the War, but for the period under review, no serious cases of menace to health were neglected, and housing conditions were maintained in a reasonably satisfactory state.

The cessation in building of new houses for the working-classes which occurred in 1938 continued into the new year, and the erection of houses of a better type, apart from those already in course of construction, ceased abruptly in September.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regularity of inspection was maintained, and whilst due regard was paid to the desirability of avoiding waste, the quality of food offered for sale was maintained.

MILK SUPPLY.

A marked diminution in the number of samples taken for examination was due to causes directly attributable to the War, although the number of inspections for cleanliness remained constant and substantial improvements were carried out to defective and unsuitable premises.

Informal samples were taken for the purpose of determining quality and cleanliness, and were of a three-fold character, namely, sediment or dirt test, chemical and bacteriological examinations. Where misdemeanours or deficiencies occurred, the producers were notified and appropriate steps required to correct conditions.

A service available to and much appreciated by producers, is that of testing samples at a nominal figure to isolate an offending cow, and this has frequently resulted in the raising of the standard of several bulk milks. No cases of suspected adulteration have been revealed, and the general standard of milk and cream has been high.

MISCELLANEOUS.

For the purpose of economy, no detail of Miscellaneous duties is included in this Report, apart from the summary of inspections, from a perusal of which the general character of the nuisances found will be noted. In the abatement of these, appropriate action was taken.

Only a small percentage of notices remained uncomplished with at the end of the year.

Special attention was given, however, to the following subjects, and considerable progress can be recorded: Meat and Food Regulations, Milk and Dairies, Water Supplies, River and Stream Pollution, and Destruction of Rats and Mice.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND FOOD ANALYSES.

Public Health Nuisances.....	186
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections.....	201
Housing Acts.....	109
Housing Acts reinspections.....	429
Complaints.....	33
Public Cleansing.....	375
Drains Examined.....	222
Closet Accommodation:-	
Privies and Earth Closets.....	25
Water Closets.....	48
Milk and Dairies.....	596
Sediment Tests.....	74
Chemical Samples.....	275
Bacteriological Samples.....	267
Slaughterhouses.....	819
Meat Shops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.....	508

Offensive Trades.....	-
Knacker's Yards.....	61
Bakehouses.....	-
Water Supply.....	379
Water Samples:-	
Formal.....	51
Informal.....	99
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.....	97
Factories and Workshops, etc.....	26
Infectious Diseases.....	78
Rooms disinfected.....	117
Rats and Mice Destruction.....	149
Vermineous premises dealt with.....	18
Schools.....	24
Pollution of watercourses.....	41
Markets.....	18
Miscellaneous.....	768

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years	2	3	-	2	-	-	1	-
15 to 25 years	5	1	-	1	4	2	-	-
25 to 35 years	3	2	1	3	-	5	2	-
35 to 45 years	2	2	-	3	-	5	1	1
45 to 55 years	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 to 65 years	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	13	11	1	12	4	15	4	1

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS.

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted To Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	44	40	-
Pneumonia	21	-	-
Diphtheria	15	8	1
Dysentery	7	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Paratyphoid	3	3	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Enteric	1	-	-
Whoopingcough	8	-	-
Measles	42	2	-
Tonsillitis	-	1	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL IN EACH MONTH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	5	13	6	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tonsillitis	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE		Age not known	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	17	13	5	6	1	-	-	44
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	6	2	4	3	21
Diphtheria	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	2	2	1	1	15
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	3	-	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Enteric	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Whoopingcough	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Measles	-	-	6	2	2	5	23	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	42

